

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/667,600  
Response filed November 24, 2004  
Reply to OA dated August 25, 2004

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1       Claim 1 (currently amended): A hair iron device, comprising:

2           a hair iron main body to hold hair with a first iron and a second iron oscillatable to open and

3           close to set the hair, and plural small protruding portions disposed on corresponding faces of the first

4           and second irons which mutually come close to each other and engage each other in a closed state

5           of the first iron and the second iron to hold the hair as to mutually engage , wherein

6           the small protruding portions on the face of the first iron are arranged in a plurality of rows

7           surrounding and spaced apart from a first central portion of the face of the first iron, the first central

8           portion forming a plurality of steam jetting holes having a first cross-sectional area, and

9           the small protruding portions on the face of the second iron are arranged in a plurality of rows

10           surrounding and spaced apart from a second central portion of the face of the second iron, the second

11           central portion forming a plurality of steam suction holes having a second cross-sectional area, the

12           first cross-sectional area being smaller than the second cross-sectional area.

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1           Claim 2 (original): The hair iron device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the small protruding  
2           portion is pyramidal.

1           Claim 3 (original): The hair iron device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the small protruding  
2           portion is a regular pyramid.

1           Claim 4 (currently amended): A hair iron device having a hair iron main body to hold hair  
2           with a first iron having a face with protruding portions and a second iron having a face with  
3           protruding portions to set the hair comprising a construction in which the hair iron main body has  
4           electric heaters each of which is embedded in the first iron and the second iron respectively, and  
5           steam is jetted out of the first iron and sucked by the second iron, wherein  
6           the protruding portions on the face of the first iron are arranged in a plurality of rows  
7           surrounding and spaced apart from a first central portion of the face of the first iron, the first central  
8           portion forming a plurality of steam jetting holes having a first cross-sectional area, and  
9           the protruding portions on the face of the second iron are arranged in a plurality of rows  
10           surrounding and spaced apart from a second central portion of the face of the second iron, the second  
11           central portion forming a plurality of steam suction holes having a second cross-sectional area, the  
12           first cross-sectional area being smaller than the second cross-sectional area.

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1       Claim 5 (currently amended): A hair iron device having a hair iron main body to hold hair  
2       with a first iron and a second iron to set the hair comprising a construction in which plural small  
3       protruding portions are disposed on corresponding faces which mutually come close in a closed state  
4       of the first iron and the second iron to hold the hair [[as]] and to mutually engage, [[a]] steam-jetting  
5       hole is holes are disposed on the corresponding face of the first iron, [[a]] steam suction hole is holes  
6       are disposed on the corresponding face of the second iron, and an electric heater is embedded in each  
7       of the first iron and the second iron at a position spaced apart from the small protruding portions,  
8       wherein

9       the small protruding portions on the face of the first iron are arranged in a plurality of rows  
10      surrounding and spaced apart from a first central portion of the face of the first iron, the first central  
11      portion forming the steam-jetting holes having a first cross-sectional area, and

12      the small protruding portions on the face of the second iron are arranged in a plurality of rows  
13      surrounding and spaced apart from a second central portion of the face of the second iron, the second  
14      central portion forming the steam suction holes having a second cross-sectional area, the first cross-  
15      sectional area being smaller than the second cross-sectional area.

1       Claim 6 (original): The hair iron device as set forth in claim 5, wherein the steam-jetting  
2       hole is positionally dislocated from the steam suction hole when observed in a direction at right  
3       angles with the corresponding faces in the closed state in which the corresponding faces mutually  
4       come close.

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1           Claim 7 (original): The hair iron device as set forth in claim 4 or claim 5, wherein the first  
2         iron is positioned on a scalp side and the second iron is positioned on an outer side in use.

1           Claim 8 (original): The hair iron device as set forth in claim 5, wherein the small protruding  
2         portion is pyramidal.

1           Claim 9 (original): The hair iron device as set forth in claim 5, wherein the small protruding  
2         portion is a regular pyramid.

1           Claim 10 (original): The hair iron device as set forth in claim 4, 5, or 6, wherein a steam  
2         valve, which becomes closed in an open state of the first iron and the second iron and becomes open  
3         in the closed state of the first iron and the second iron, is attached to the hair iron main body.

1           Claim 11 (original): The hair iron device as set forth in claim 4, 5, or 6, wherein a suction  
2         switch, which is switched off in an open state of the first iron and the second iron and switched on  
3         in the closed state of the first iron and the second iron, is attached to the hair iron main body, and a  
4         suction means connected to the hair iron main body through a suction tube is switched on and off  
5         by the suction switch.

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1       Claim 12 (original): The hair iron device as set forth in claim 11, wherein a steam valve,  
2       which becomes closed in the open state of the first iron and the second iron and becomes open in the  
3       closed state of the first iron and the second iron, is attached to the hair iron main body, and a drain  
4       tube to send drain from the steam valve to a steam trap is provided.

1       Claim 13 (original): The hair iron device as set forth in claim 11, wherein a steam valve,  
2       which becomes closed in the open state of the first iron and the second iron and becomes open in the  
3       closed state of the first iron and the second iron, is attached to the hair iron main body, a drain tube  
4       to return drain from the steam valve to a boiler is provided, a circulation, in which the steam from  
5       the boiler is supplied to the steam valve through a steam-supplying tube connecting the boiler to the  
6       steam valve and returned to the boiler through the drain tube, is always conducted when the steam  
7       valve is closed, and the steam of the boiler is jetted out of the hair iron main body when the steam  
8       valve is open.

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